



## Collin County Day in Austin

# SUPPORT FOR EDUCATION INITIATIVE

### Public Schools K-12

- **Vouchers** – School districts oppose private school vouchers because they drain funding from public schools and deplete funds for programs and improvements.
- **School Funding** – Due to no adjustment in the Cost of Education Index with recent legislation, Collin County districts will have difficulty remaining competitive with teacher pay increases, utilities and other inflationary costs. Maintaining a stable tax rate and preserving the ability to access sufficient funding is crucial to the long-range planning process and vision for public schools.
- **Enrichment Tax Rate** – School districts support the elimination of the requirements for voter approval of enrichment tax rates.
- **End of Course Tests** – At the high school level, replace TAKS testing with new end-of-course tests that provide more comprehensive measures of student learning as well as application skills. End of course exams should be limited to core courses in selected grade levels.
- **4x4 Curriculum** – This new state requirement creates a burden on school districts to transition chemistry and physics into courses that ALL students take and experience success. The curriculum also creates an over-supply of IPC teachers and the requirement for teachers to obtain higher-levels of certification. With three of the four math and science courses well defined, it is imperative that school districts maintain flexibility with the fourth course in order to meet students' needs and interests.
- **Online Course Funding** – Provide funding to local school districts on a per student basis for successful completion of online courses taken outside of the regularly scheduled school day. This will be a crucial option for students looking to complete the required 26 credits for the recommended graduation plan while continuing to participate in fine arts, career education and athletic programs. Provide a similar model of reimbursement to districts that provide courses during the school day to students from other Texas districts.

### Higher Education

- Collin County sees the value the Collin County Community College brings to our region by providing an educated workforce to meet the growing demands this area has. We support legislation that would increase the contact hour formula funding

community colleges to a level that is on par with the funding formula for university systems.

- It is our belief and desire to cultivate an educated workforce to sustain our business community and attract new business to the area. That is why we support Collin College's goal to provide workforce education training. We support increasing the appropriation of the Skills Development Fund to \$50 million. So far the program has trained 3,900 employees in 47 companies and expects the demand for more training to increase as the county continues to grow at such a high rate.